



Presque Isle

Northwestern Pennsylvania is home to the beautiful Presque Isle State Park, the premier attraction for the regional tourism economy. The park draws over four million visitors annually and is responsible for creating over 1,000 jobs in the region. Each year, the beaches experience severe storm erosion and require sand replenishment. Without annual beach nourishment, the persistent erosion causes substantial destruction to the park's infrastructure and peninsula resulting in damage to beaches, hiking trails, and ecosystems that support endangered species in the park. Left unaddressed, the damage caused by erosion would not only negatively impact the regional economy, several areas and structures exposed by erosion present a public safety concern. Since joining the Senate in 2007, Senator Casey has been a vocal champion for securing annual funding by sending letters to the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Office of Management and Budget, and the relevant Senate committees. Senator Casey's efforts have helped to secure \$10.6 million in federal funding for beach replenishment at Presque Isle.

*"Presque Isle State Park is one of the top attractions in the state of Pennsylvania and the beaches are necessary to the economic health of the region," said **Sean Candela, owner of Sara's Restaurant**. "I thank Senator Casey for all his efforts over the years to continuously secure funding for the sand replenishment program."*

ESSA / Title 1 ([Public Law No. 114-95](#))

In 2015, the Senate took on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). As a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, Pensions (HELP) Committee, Senator Casey was among the voices debating every aspect of this reauthorization, the Every Student Success Act (ESSA) ([Public Law No. 114-95](#)). Through the legislative process, he was able to secure vital pieces of legislation, including provisions that helped increase access to resources for students with disabilities (S. 528), promote the continuity between pre-K and elementary schools (S. 643), strengthen STEM education (S. 671), improve teacher professional development programs (S. 882), and keep more kids in the classroom (S. 672). In addition, he ensured Pennsylvania would continue to receive robust Title I funding, by fighting back an amendment that would have cost Pennsylvania \$126 million each year. Particularly, Senator Casey remains engaged in empowering students with disabilities and ensuring that more children have access to quality early childhood education.

*"Everyday scores of struggling children across the Commonwealth depend upon Title I funding for their educational program. Today, approximately 39% of Pennsylvania's children live in low-income families," said **Dr. John J. George, executive director of Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23**. "Senator Casey's leadership to preserve Title I funding is integral to ensure that schools have the resources to provide children from impoverished homes an opportunity to receive an equitable, quality, and beneficial education. By using these needed Title I funds, schools are able to design reading and mathematics programs and develop personal learning plans for children to enable them to overcome the tragic effects of poverty."*

ABLE Act ([Public Law No. 113-295](#))

In July 2017, we celebrated the 27th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This legislation helped make tremendous gains in securing equality for many Americans with disabilities. As many of our fellow citizens with disabilities know, however, the costs associated with daily life are often overwhelming. To address the financial strain faced by individuals and families with disabilities, Senator Casey authored the Achieving A Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) ([Public Law No. 113-295](#)). The ABLE act amends the tax code to allow the use of tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities to cover expenses like education, housing, medical needs, and transportation. Critically, the legislation exempts the funds held in ABLE accounts from disqualifying an individual from receiving Medicaid and other federal benefits. In December of 2014, following bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, his legislation was signed into law by President Barack Obama. Since being signed into law, 48 states, including Pennsylvania, have enacted state laws to create ABLE accounts. Twenty-eight states have opened their accounts with over \$25 million in assets already invested. Pennsylvania has 588 citizens, as of September 1st, who have already opened ABLE accounts worth more than \$1.4 million.

“I’m so grateful to have worked with Senator Casey on passing landmark legislation for individuals with disabilities” said [Sara Wolff](#). “ABLE will have a positive impact on my financial future as well as millions of other Americans. I’m proud and privileged to have my hometown Senator dedicated to improving the lives of others. YOU ROCK, SENATOR CASEY!”

Campus SaVE ([Public Law No. 113-4](#))

Every time a college student is the victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking, we as a nation have failed that student. Those who commit such terrible acts must be held fully accountable, and those who stand by and do nothing must realize that silence is not an option. As the nation grappled with the crisis of campus sexual assault, Senator Casey introduced the Campus SaVE Act, which passed during the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act ([Public Law No. 113-4](#)). The Campus SaVE Act, which took full effect in 2015, requires more university transparency on sexual assault proceedings, requires universities to explain in writing students’ rights anytime a student reports being a victim of sexual violence, and requires more comprehensive bystander education. Ultimately, this legislation will help to make our Nation’s campuses and young adults safer.

*“The Campus SaVE Act served as a framework for the 2013 VAWA Amendments to the Clery Act. We appreciated working with Senator Casey and staff on this transformational piece of legislation,” said **Alison Kiss, Executive Director of the Clery Center on Campus SaVE**. “He and his team were thoughtful in approaching the addition of dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking to the Clery Act and were solutions-focused in writing statute to reflect the evolution of prevention and response on college and university campuses. The end result was legislation that empowers campuses to proactively address sexual assault through comprehensive prevention programs and modernized requirements related to student conduct processes.”*

Pepper Spray In Prisons ([Public Law No. 114-133](#))

The tragic passing of Correctional Officer Eric Williams, who lost his life while serving at U.S. Penitentiary at Canaan, was a reminder that correctional officers must be well-equipped to protect themselves. To combat vulnerabilities, Senator Casey pushed for a program that allowed correctional officers at select penitentiaries to carry pepper spray for their protection. Following a successful pilot program, Senator Casey and Senator Toomey worked together to introduce Eric Williams Correctional Officer Protection Act ([Public Law No. 114-133](#)). This bipartisan legislation, which was signed into law in 2016, requires the Bureau of Prisons to dispense pepper spray to correctional workers in all medium- and high-security correctional facilities who may be required to respond to an emergency. It also directs the Government Accountability Office to report on the program's effectiveness to determine if it should be implemented in low- or medium-security facilities to ensure that more correctional workers across the United States have access to the tools necessary to do their jobs more safely.

"The Williams family takes great comfort in knowing that the Eric Williams Corrections Officers Protection Act, commonly called the pepper spray law, named for our fallen son, has already been responsible to have saved a vast number of corrections officers and inmates alike from serious injury or death resulting from prison assaults," said Don Williams, father of fallen Federal Corrections Officer Eric Williams. "We are most grateful to Senator Casey, coauthor of the bill, for his efforts on behalf of all the corrections community."

"The Eric Williams self protection act has proven to be an essential piece of bipartisan legislation that has resulted in more than 2,000 Correctional professionals resolving imminent violence with a minimal impact upon them, their families, and the inmate population they are sworn to protect," Shane Fausey, President of AFGE Local 4047, Council of Prison Locals 33. "The efforts of both Senators Toomey and Casey have resulted in the protection of countless lives."

Senior Medicare Patrol ([Public Law No: 114-144](#))

Strong services and support are vital for the health and wellbeing of our older loved ones. Whether that means ensuring access to quality health care, preventing fraud and scams, or addressing issues of loneliness, we must take care of those who've spent their lives taking care of us. Senator Casey, as the most senior Democrat on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, investigates and initiates some of the most relevant topics pertinent to older Americans. Oftentimes, the most effective way to care for our seniors is to empower their own action. In 2015, Senator Casey led a successful effort to permanently authorize the Senior Medicare Patrol program as part of the Older Americans Act ([Public Law No: 114-144](#)). Between 1997 and 2013, the Patrol reached over 29 million Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries through community education programs and helped save an estimated \$121 million. In addition to his ranking membership on the Special Committee on Aging, Senator Casey serves on the Senate HELP and Senate Finance committees, both of which have jurisdiction over programs relevant to older Americans.

*“Bottom line, if I didn’t know the people at CARIE, the company would have gotten away with the scam. I would have been on the hook for it and so would Medicare,” **said Joe Ellmer, Philadelphia resident and veteran.** “The weight that Ariel carried with CARIE got the company to listen up. Within two weeks of talking with CARIE, they were on the way to fixing the problem. If I had been on my own, it would have been immensely harder to fix this. If I had kept the wrong brace, it would have been two years before I could get a different, correct one. I can live more comfortably with the correct brace. I already have a back brace from other surgeries, so I know that the brace I was sent was a joke. The wrong brace was kind of scratchy, and it had magnets in it. The magnets also kept falling off. One day I hung the brace on a dining room chair, and when I checked on it later some of the magnets had fallen off.”*

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Senator Casey is a major proponent of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. It is the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) most effective, flexible, and utilized economic development resource. Despite the fact that it plays a vital role in building opportunity in local and rural communities, the Trump Administration’s budget proposes the elimination the CDBG program entirely. Senator Casey has been and will remain a vocal opponent of these cuts. Since 2007, the program has provided \$2.11 billion for Pennsylvania communities.

*“CDBG funds are critical for our municipalities to address their ongoing infrastructure needs,” **said John Christopher Soff, Crawford County Commissioner.** “The reduction of CDBG funds would be detrimental to our county and we are appreciative of all of Senator Casey’s diligent work to secure the continued flow of these funds, for the betterment of our county.”*

Locks & Dams ([Public Law No. 113-121](#))

In Southwestern Pennsylvania, at least 200,000 jobs are supported by activities on waterways. In fact, the Port Of Pittsburgh is the second largest inland river port in the nation. It’s imperative that we do all we can to ensure that Pennsylvania keep a safe, efficient, and strong waterway infrastructure system, including functional locks and dams. To ensure just that, Senator Casey introduced the Reinvesting In Vital Economic Rivers and Waterways (RIVER) Act. Signed into law, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) ([Public Law No. 113-121](#)) included much of Senator Casey’s RIVER act. Particularly, Senator Casey’s provisions helped define a major rehabilitation which increased the current law level of \$14 million to \$20 million (adjusted for inflation) and helped set up a system of prioritization for projects based upon risk of failure and economic benefit to the Nation.

*“Senator Bob Casey has played a key role on the Lower Mon Project by securing funding to create good paying construction jobs in addition to keeping Pennsylvania business, which use the inland waterways, competitive,” **said Mike Welsh, Carpenters Union Local 2274.***

Emergency Medical Services for Children ([Public Law No. 113-180](#))

When it comes to medical treatment, children are not small adults. Approximately 90 percent of children requiring emergency care are seen in general hospitals, with one-quarter to one-third of patients being seen in hospitals with no separate pediatric ward. They require tailored, specific care and that care should be high quality no matter where they live. To ensure access to high quality emergency care to the (now) nearly 26 million children that require it annually, the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program was created over 30 years ago. The EMSC program helps medical professionals meet the unique standards of pediatric patients, by enabling state partnership grants and supporting the research infrastructure. Since the program was created in 1984, pediatric injury-related death rates have been reduced by more than 40 percent. In 2014, to ensure the continued success of the program, Senator Casey led a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the program. Later that year, his EMSC Reauthorization Act became law ([Public Law No. 113-180](#)).

“The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program ensures that children throughout our nation and all of Pennsylvania receive high quality care when they are injured or seriously ill,” said James Callahan, MD Associate Medical Director, Emergency Department Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. “The program has provided funding for programs that make sure that ambulance services and emergency departments have the equipment they need to take care of children of all sizes and that their providers have had the emergency pediatric training they need. In addition, EMSC has supported the ground breaking, high quality research that has shown how to best provide this care for these children in all settings. Senator Casey's support and leadership has helped to make sure that the EMSC program has the funds needed to accomplish all of this.”

Port Of Philadelphia

The shipping industry remains among the most important in the United States. Particularly, as a result of the expansion of the Panama Canal, which opened a more efficient trading route between the western hemisphere the eastern seaboard, American ports have seen an increase in traffic. As the size of these vessels continue to grow, only major ports with deep enough thoroughways remain competitive. In order to maintain its customer base and remain globally competitive, Philadelphia's main shipping channel must be deepened. Completion of the deepening would ensure that the Port Of Philadelphia would remain competitive among the Nation's largest ports. To ensure this happens Senator Casey has remained a constant advocate for funding, helping secure \$271.8 million since 2008. Senator Casey's efforts to help secure Deepening funding have led to an estimated 2.5 million more tons of cargo a year and have helped create thousands of new jobs in Philadelphia. With the latest round of funding, it is anticipated that the project will be completed in the coming year.

“The deepening of the Delaware River is critical to the economy of our region, and it could not have been achieved without the leadership of Sen. Bob Casey, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the deepening project earned and maintained the federal funding needed to complete the job,” said Leo Holt, CEO of Holt Logistics.

Miners' Health Care ([Public Law No. 115-31](#))

In the summer of 2015, Senator Casey helped lead a group of bipartisan Senators in introducing the Miners Protection Act, which would have guaranteed health and pension protections for retired miners and their families. Senator Casey's advocacy helped get the bill passed out of Finance Committee by a bipartisan vote of 18-8. Despite broad bipartisan Finance Committee support, the bill was not passed before the Senate. During the early months of 2017, over 20,000 retired coal miners (1,955 in Pennsylvania alone) were set to lose their health care benefits. Following repeated calls on his colleagues to do the right thing and protect these men and women and their families, a permanent health care fix was secured in Congress' government funding bill ([Public Law No. 115-31](#)). While this was certainly a step in the right direction, Senator Casey will not stop fighting until a permanent pensions fix has been secured as well.

"As our retirees have fought to preserve their health care and pensions, Senator Bob Casey has been fighting right alongside them," said Cecil E. Roberts, International President, United Mine Workers of America. "He has taken to the floor of the Senate time and time again on their behalf, reminding lawmakers of the extraordinary contributions coal miners have made to America and the need for our nation to keep its commitment to protect their retirement security. His passion for them, their families and their communities is real, it is complete, and it is inspiring."